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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Synthetic Rubber Production at Buna-Schkopau	DATE DISTR.	30 September 1953
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1. The present Buna production totals about 105,000 tons. As soon as the carbide production facilities of East Germany are capable of delivering more carbide, production will increase.
2. A total of about 23,000 men are employed at Buna. Included in this total are the working crews used in the carbide production facilities at Plesteritz.
3. The Buna product "S 3 T," the manufacture of which was begun about 1½ years ago, has proved superior to the US synthetic rubber product, "Gold Rubber." Buna S3T is a low-temperature india-rubber, produced by a special process with special equipment at a temperature of about 1/4 degree Centigrade. S3T has a higher tensile strength than Buna S3 and Gold Rubber, and better elasticity. This latter is reported to be equal to that of natural rubber.
4. The deflection stability and resistance to age and heat of S3T surpasses that of natural rubber. S3T is more easily processed than S3; S3T can also be sprayed.
5. For experiments and tests, more than 600 tons of S3T were used. These tests demonstrated that S3T auto tires showed 12% less wear than Buna S3 and Gold Rubber tires. The breaking stretch is around 575 %, the permanent stretch near 13 %; elasticity is 48 %, which makes it almost as good as that of natural rubber.
6. At present, about 1200 tons of S3T are produced per month at Buna. Further series of tests are underway, designed to improve the characteristics of the synthetic rubber so they will equal or better the characteristics of natural rubber.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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